



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held June 19, 2007, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

“As I have stated before, Los Angeles County needs to take a strong leadership role in addressing the serious issues impacting the Juvenile Justice system. There is a need now more than ever to introduce dramatic reforms and improvements to this system. While the Children's Planning Council reports on youth in the juvenile justice system indicate that the problems afflicting juvenile justice are inter-related, we can and must begin our reform efforts with meeting the educational needs of the almost 3,000 youth enrolled in Probation schools.

“We have made small steps in the right direction. In 1997, I implemented the Operation Read program to address literacy needs of students at the lowest level, and I have led efforts to ensure that students leaving the system have a library card. But it is time to move towards comprehensive, systematic reforms to improve the overall prospects of Probation students.

“Priority one should be improved education standards: increased literacy, improved test scores, and better overall academic achievement. In 2004, 74 percent of the students enrolled in Juvenile Court and Community Schools did not pass the California High School Exit Examination. Studies performed by the Education Coordinating Council (ECC) in 2006 indicated that Probation students have serious challenges in every major indicator of academic achievement. Twenty percent of all Probation students require special education programs, which is double that of the general school special education population.

“While there is no doubt that this effort raises many complex and challenging questions, the indicators we are seeing and the results we are getting are unacceptable. It is time to shift our focus from pointing out these pervasive problems to solving them for the benefit of the children that come under our responsibility.”

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Supervisor Knabe made a motion that the Board instruct the Chief Probation Officer, in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools, Los Angeles County Board of Education, Probation Commission, County Librarian, Director of Mental Health, Children's Planning Council and the Chief Administrative Officer, to develop a comprehensive plan to dramatically reform education programs in the County's juvenile halls and probation camps, including an exploration of the feasibility of charter schools and other innovative models of education, and report back to the Board every 60 days as to the progress.

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"There is no doubt about the importance and value of education and the room for improving the delivery of those services to our youth in the juvenile justice system.

"Vocational schools and creative partnerships with community colleges can offer unique learning opportunities and enhance the skills and natural talents of our youth. In recognition of that, the Probation Department currently offers some vocational programs, such as the Youth Opportunity Movement which includes a culinary school, landscaping and a diesel mechanic program. These types of programs ought to be expanded and enhanced as much as possible to help ensure the future success of our youth."

Therefore, Supervisor Antonovich made a suggestion that Supervisor Knabe's motion be amended to also direct the aforementioned collaborating Departments to consider the expansion and enhancement of vocational schools and partnerships with community colleges among the other innovative models of education in their report due in 60 days.

Supervisor Knabe accepted Supervisor Antonovich amendment and added the Los Angeles County Education Coordinating Council to the collaboration.

Supervisor Knabe's motion, as amended, seconded by Supervisor Burke, was unanimously carried.

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Chief Probation Officer  
Superintendent of Schools  
President, Los Angeles County  
Board of Education  
President, Probation Commission

County Librarian  
Director of Mental Health  
Executive Director, Children's  
Planning Council  
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